

## Minutes of the National Basic Assistance Working Group Meeting Beirut, 21 January 2018

<b>Meeting Location</b>	UNHCR, S&K building, 9 <sup>th</sup> F	<b>Meeting Time</b>	2:00 – 4:00 PM
<b>Chair persons</b>	Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) Hadi Haddad (MoSA) Justine Cherrier (ACF)	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	2h00
<b>Minutes by</b>	Justine Cherrier		
<b>16 Represented Agencies</b>	ACF, ACTED, ANERA, CAMELEON, CCP Japan, Islamic Relief, MOSA, NRC, OXFAM, SB-Overseas, SI, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, Welfare Association		
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sector Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Targeting Assistance</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Winter Support: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Winter activities implemented / preparedness</li> <li>b. Storm Response</li> <li>c. Additional cash support in emergencies</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		

### 1. Sector Updates

#### a. Targeting Assistance

- 63,819 vulnerable households received monthly cash transfers / multi-purpose cash (from AI and RAIS – Dec 2018):
  - 54,159\* SYR HHs (supported by CLMC, ICRC, LRC, RI, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, WFP)
  - 8,959 PRS HHs (UNRWA, NABAA)
  - 701 Leb HHs (ACTED, CLMC, LRC)
  - USD 11,168,325 is the total value of assistance injected in the local economy (Dec);
- Foreseen gaps due to closing of programs, (CLMC by end Dec 2018, Solidar Suisse by end Feb 2019);
- 58,000 cases are booked and expected to be fully reached by January 2019;
- Partners to revisit their reporting on Activity Info and on RAIS and complete missing fields in 2018 if any; The 2018 yearend report is currently being consolidated.

### 2. 2018 / 2019 Winter Support Plan:

#### a. Winter activities implemented / preparedness

- 177,447 economically vulnerable households received winter cash assistance to date of which:
  - 167,349\* are SYR HHs (\$75 X 5 = \$375 one-off package);
  - 9,358 PRS / PRL HHs (\$75 X 5 = \$375 one-off package);
  - 740 Leb HHs (\$100 /month), implemented by PCPM in the North - another transfer is planned;
  - 21,295\*\* SYR HHS received an additional one off \$40/child top up
  - USD \$68,433,290 was the total value of assistance injected in the local economy (Dec)

\* AI / RAIS: reported figure by UNHCR, CLMC, NRC)

\*\* From within the 167,000 HHs targeted with winter cash – priority given to SV HHs discontinued from cash / food assistance – assistance was provided by UNICEF.

#### b. Winter Support: Storm Response Overview:

- The storm Norma has put nearly 70,000 Syrian refugees at risk due to extreme weather conditions living in 850 sites. Overall, 22,595 persons were affected spread over 574 sites;
- The impact of the storm has been different in each area; coordinated response plans were put in place and various distributions and interventions took place (check attached slides);
- Lessons learned from the response to the storm included:

- Harmonized interagency needs assessment activities for quick response maximizing the use of existing data was effective and can be built on;
- Field working groups are recommended to activate communication trees as early as possible and outreach to partners – especially local NGOs in future events;
- To further discuss an intersectoral sequenced response plan that brings together wash / shelter, and basic assistance interventions;
- Geo-split of partners in different areas was proven to be effective;

**c. Additional cash support in emergencies: the specific case of storms**

- Some agencies provided additional “emergency” cash support to affected households which is an uncommon practice under the basic assistance sector; a discussion took place to evaluate such approaches and derive lessons learned;
- The only “emergency” cash assistance stream under the Basic Assistance sector is linked to contingencies and larger scale scenarios such as influx and mass displacement triggered by conflicts or wars.
- These scenarios are covered by the Interagency Contingency Plan and therefore response plans are triggered in such scenarios;
- Existing “emergency” cash assistance do exist under other sectors such as protection; these packages are usually a one-off and should be linked to an emergency incident and should not be duplicated with any other existing services;
- MoSA has reservations regarding the use of cash modalities in general and specific concerns were raised on these specific types of interventions during storms. Accordingly, the right assistance has to be provided at the right place and when needed.
- Providing relocation support, food assistance, fuel, or in kind core relief items in such situations would be more effective, as markets might be response during or on the onset of the storm;
- If cash is to be provided, it has to be post storm and based on recovery principles, that yet has to be discussed.